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ONCE UPON A NATION BRINGS PROGRAMS TO VALLEY FORGE NHP
Storytelling, After Hours Tour, Trolley Tour to Come This Summer in Partnership with Park

PHILADELPHIA, March 20, 2007 – As Once Upon A Nation enters its third season, **an exciting new partnership with Valley Forge National Historical Park will bring Once Upon A Nation's nationally-renown programming to its second National Park.** Debuting Memorial Day Weekend 2007 and throughout the month of June, storytelling benches and Adventure Tours will engage residents and visitors in the treasures of history that took place in the venerable hills of Valley Forge.

Storytelling Benches

Guaranteed to educate and entertain, these one-of-a-kind storytelling benches are in three locations around Valley Forge National Historical Park. Storytellers, trained at Once Upon A Nation's unique month-long Benstitute, share riveting stories of the encampment, and how it became a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Short, five-minute stories are told for free to anyone who comes to visit one of the signature 13-foot curved Once Upon A Nation benches. Unlike the storytelling benches in Philadelphia's Historic District which close for the season on Labor Day, the benches at Valley Forge will continue to operate into the fall, corresponding to the popular time of year for the Park. Hours of operation are June 16 – September 3: 10:30 am – 4:30 pm, daily and September 8 – October 28: 10:30 am – 4:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays. The benches will be in three locations: Welcome Center, National Memorial Arch, and Washington's Headquarters.

The Story of Valley Forge Tour

Experience the story of Valley Forge National Historical Park as it's never been told. Once Upon A Nation storytellers bring history to life right where it all happened. Acclaimed Once Upon A Nation storytellers, using historically entertaining anecdotes, educate and amuse visitors on this unique, 90-minute, open-air trolley tour of Valley Forge Park. Hours of operation are Memorial Day Weekend May 26 – 28: 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm; June 16 – September 3: 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm, daily; September 9 – October 31: 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm, Saturdays and Sundays; Thanksgiving Weekend, November 23 – 25: 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm; and Holiday Week, December 27 – 30, 11 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm. Tickets, available at the Valley Forge NHP Welcome Center, are \$15 adults, \$9 student/senior/military, \$6 children 11 & under.

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Valley Forge After Hours

Travel back in time to June 1778, where visitors spend an exciting evening at the famous encampment at Valley Forge and see what nights were like for the Continental Army under the leadership of General George Washington. Start with a picnic dinner before checking in at Washington's Headquarters and then relax around the group campfire and listen to the soldiers' tales. Inspired by the popular Once Upon A Nation Independence After Hours Tour, where visitors eat dinner at City Tavern, and enter Independence Hall at night with the Founding Fathers, this tour is a unique twist at Valley Forge. Guests will interact with General George Washington and his wife, General Lafayette, a Continental soldier, and other prominent visitors to the encampment in the era of June 1778, just before the army moves out of Valley Forge and retakes the City of Philadelphia. Hours of operation will be June 16 – September 1: 5:30 pm, Saturdays, call for prices. Tickets will be available at the Valley Forge NHP Welcome Center or at www.onceuponanation.org.

"The new programming is an outgrowth of the popular The Road to Valley Forge: Secrets & Spies Tour that debuted last summer," said **Historic Philadelphia President and CEO Amy Needle**. "We began a partnership with Valley Forge National Historical Park that brought visitors from Philadelphia's Historic District out to enjoy Valley Forge, and now we are delighted to bring stand-alone programming within the Park itself. Once Upon A Nation is fortunate to begin programming in its second National Park, and is excited about this growth opportunity."

"Valley Forge National Historical Park is entering a new collaborative phase of development, and we are thrilled to welcome Once Upon A Nation as a partner in our programmatic progress," said **Mike Caldwell, Superintendent of Valley Forge NHP**. "The creativity and professionalism of Once Upon A Nation storytellers and interpreters will provide a richer experience, complimenting the expertise of Valley Forge's park rangers for visitors within the Park, and the entire staff looks forward to a terrific season working together."

This project has been supported in part by Valley Forge National Historical Park, Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Lenfest Foundation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area Grant Program, and Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Once Upon A Nation is an initiative of **Historic Philadelphia, Inc. (HPI)**. Historic Philadelphia, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 by then-Mayor Edward G. Rendell. HPI oversees Once Upon A Nation, The Betsy Ross House, and Franklin Square, and works closely with Historic District stakeholders and the hospitality community from the entire Greater Philadelphia Region to continue to help build Philadelphia's tourism industry into an engine for economic growth. Through interpretation, interactive experiences, evening programming, Adventure Tours, and Franklin Square, Once Upon A Nation enhances the tourist experience in Philadelphia, educating the visitor and making our nation's history relevant to today. For more information, call 215-629-4026 or visit www.onceuponanation.org.